

PATENT

Atty Docket No.: 10010485-2

App. Ser. No.: 09/994,635

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 6, 8, 14, 19, 21, and 23 have been amended. Claims 5, 7 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Currently, claims 1-4, 6, and 7-26 are pending in the present application of which claims 1, 14, and 19 are independent.

No new matter has been introduced by way of the claim amendments; entry thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-20, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as allegedly being anticipated by Ankireddipally et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,772,216).

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ankireddipally et al. in view of Delong (U.S. Patent Number 6,247,169).

Claims 12, 13, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ankireddipally et al. in view of Layman ("XML Schema NG Guide", Microsoft, May 1999). The above rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

Drawings and Information Disclosure Statement

At the outset, the indication that the drawings have been accepted is noted with appreciation.

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Claim Objections

Claims 14 and 19 were objected to for informalities. Claims 14 and 19 were amended to correct these informalities. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to claims 14 and 19.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The test for determining if a reference anticipates a claim, for purposes of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, is whether the reference discloses all the elements of the claimed combination, or the mechanical equivalents thereof functioning in substantially the same way to produce substantially the same results. As noted by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984), in evaluating the sufficiency of an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the Court stated:

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.

Therefore, if the cited reference does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, then the cited reference fails to anticipate the claimed invention and, thus, the claimed invention is distinguishable over the cited reference.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-20, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ankireddipally et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed because the claimed invention as set forth in amended claims 1, 14, and 19 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentably distinguishable over Ankireddipally et al.

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Ankireddipally et al. discloses an interaction protocol for managing cross company processes among network-distributed applications. See title and abstract. The protocol provides a framework for specifying messages types which are exchanged between the distributed applications. The framework also specifies the semantics of these messages and the order in which the messages are to be exchanged. The protocol is used in a distributed environment as illustrated in Figure 1 of Ankireddipally et al. The distributed environment includes protocol-aware service applications 20, 28, and 30 communicating with one another through a commerce exchange server 10.

Claims 1 and 19, as amended, recite "wherein the at least one transition is an exception transition, said destination interaction being executed when a message type that is not expected by said source interaction is received." Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach the exception transition as recited in amended claims 1 and 19. This claim element was originally recited in dependent claim 7, which is canceled herein and combined with independent claim 1. The Examiner has stated that this claim element is not shown by Ankireddipally et al. in the second paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action but alleges that this element is taught by Delong in the 103 rejection. Delong, however, also fails to teach or suggest this claim element, such as described below with respect to the 103 rejection.

Claim 14 recites "a conversation controller generated from a description file" and "said conversation controller being operable to perform a sequence of interactions described in said description file." Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach a conversation controller generated from a description file, wherein the conversation controller is operable to perform a sequence of interactions described in said description file. Support for these features is provided in the specification. For example, a description file includes a sequence of

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interactions and document types that may be used in each interaction. See p. 5, lines 10-14; see Figures 3A-C. Examples of generating the conversation controller from the description file are also disclosed. In one example, the description file 110 may be compiled to generate the conversation controller 120. In another example, the description file may be used as a library or object for generating the conversation controller 120. See p. 6, lines 10-21.

Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach generating a conversation controller from a description file. The Office Action alleges that this element is shown in the Abstract of Ankireddipally et al. and at column 6 lines 49-67 and column 7 lines 1-10. However, the Applicants assert that this element is not shown by Ankireddipally et al. in either of those sections. Additionally, the Applicants assert that there is no need for a conversation controller in Ankireddipally et al. because the disclosure therein describes a protocol which is a formal set of procedures to facilitate functional interoperation among application services. See column 6, lines 65-67. Ankireddipally et al. discloses a commerce exchange server 10 that may use the protocol, but Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach a conversation controller generated from a description file. Furthermore, because the protocols are predefined and layout the order of messages, there is no need to use a conversation controller to enforce message order. For example, Ankireddipally et al. discloses the protocol specifies message types and exchange orders. See column 7, lines 1-3. However, the exchange orders are predefined based on a message type. For example, if the request/reply message type is used, the order includes sending a message to the server and server replies. See column 7, line 40-column 8, line 42. Because the order is predefined based on message type, there is no need to specify the order or to use a conversation controller to enforce a message order.

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Independent claim 19 recites, "wherein the message type to be received or the message type to be transmitted includes attributes describing data in a message that corresponds to the message type." Support for these features is provided on page 8, lines 13-25 and page 9, line 8-20. For example, the description file includes interactions which specify the document type of documents that may be received or transmitted as described in the interaction. The document type, for example, includes attributes describing data in a document, such as data types, etc. A document of that document type includes an instance of the attributes specified in the document type.

The features of claim 19 are not taught by Ankireddipally et al. Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach a message type including attributes describing data in a message that corresponds to the message type. Ankireddipally et al. discloses message types but the message types do not include attributes describing data in a message.

Accordingly, Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach all of the features contained in claims 1, 14, and 19, and thus, these claims are believed to be allowable. Claims 2-4, 6, and 8-13 depend upon allowable claim 1, claims 15-18 depend upon allowable claim 14, and claims 21-27 depend upon allowable claim 19 and are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The test for determining if a claim is rendered obvious by one or more references for purposes of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is set forth in MPEP § 706.02(j):

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally

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available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaack*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Therefore, if the above-identified criteria are not met, then the cited reference(s) fails to render obvious the claimed invention and, thus, the claimed invention is distinguishable over the cited reference(s).

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ankireddipally et al. in view of Delong. Claim 7 has been canceled. The subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into amended claim 1. The following response, therefore, also includes arguments regarding amended claim 1. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Ankireddipally et al. and Delong, considered singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention as set forth in amended claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "wherein the at least one transition is an exception transition, said destination interaction being executed when a message type that is not expected by said source interaction is received." Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach the exception transition as recited in amended claim 1. The Official Action asserts that Delong teaches the exception transition of claim 1. However, the Applicants submit that Delong fails to teach or suggest the exception transition as recited in claim 1. Delong discloses exception handling methods in computer software. In Delong, an exception is raised and a structured method is used to determine how to handle the exception. However, Delong fails to teach or suggest an exception comprising when a message type that is not expected by said source

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interaction is received. Furthermore, Delong fails to teach what happens when an exception comprising when a message type that is not expected by said source interaction is received occurs, such as a destination interaction being executed.

Claim 8 recites "wherein said at least one transition includes a default transition, said source interaction being executed when a message included in said source interaction that does not otherwise have a defined transition is received." Ankireddipally et al. fails to teach the default transition as recited in amended claim 8. The Official Action asserts that Delong teaches the default transition of claim 8. However, the Applicants submit that Delong fails to teach or suggest the default transition as recited in claim 8. Delong discloses exception handling methods in computer software. In Delong, an exception is raised and a structured method is used to determine how to handle the exception. On the other hand, claim 8 recites a default transition said source interaction being executed when a message included in said source interaction that does not otherwise have a defined transition is received. Delong fails to teach or suggest executing a source interaction upon receiving an undefined transition.

At least by virtue of Ankireddipally et al.'s and Delong's failure to teach or suggest the above identified element of claim 8, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 8.

Claims 12, 13, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ankireddipally et al. in view of Layman. The Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 19, as amended, are not anticipated by Ankireddipally et al. In addition, the Official Action does not rely upon Layman to make up for the deficiencies in Ankireddipally et al. with respect to claims 1 and 19. Therefore, claims 12 and 13 which

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depend from claim 1 and claims 21-25 which depend from claim 19 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 12, 13, and 21-25.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

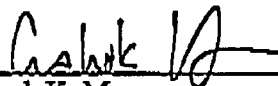
Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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